

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 9 line 5 of the specification as filed, with the following:

In general, the MA, TA, and APA are closely related and collectively maintain state information on dormant end nodes to enable location tracking and paging. Thus, these three functions may often be collocated within the same node or in nodes that are topologically in close proximity to one another. The present invention supports both centralized paging system designs and more distributed design in which these functions are located at or ~~near~~ near the edge of the network infrastructure, e.g., in the access nodes. The LPA essentially serves to coordinate signaling between other functional entities, e.g., the end node in its present location (e.g., its current location/paging area, access node, cell, and/or sector), and the MA/TA/APA that is supporting the dormant end node (which may be located elsewhere in the network). Thus, the LPA function is typically more distributed and located at or near the edge of the network infrastructure, e.g., in the access nodes. In various embodiments of the present invention, a single LPA may support a plurality of access nodes/cells/sectors, defined to be within the local scope of the LPA.